

Town of Wellesley

Fuller Brook Park Committee

Board Room, Department of Public Works Building, 20 Municipal Way
Meeting Minutes for Friday October 14, 2016

Present: Diane Campbell, Chair; Members Raina McManus and Robert Carley; Town Staff Dave Hickey, Brandon Schmitt, and Mike Pakstis; Project Manager Peter Jackson

Chair called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m.

Citizen Speak: No one was present for citizen speak.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from the meeting of September 9, 2016, previously distributed, were unanimously approved.

Construction Update, provided by Peter Jackson:

A “punch list” has been developed to address the work needed for sign off/acceptance of the Maugus Avenue to Wellesley Avenue portion of the project, and the contractor has been at work addressing those items.

New plantings have already been added between Grove Street and Dover Road.

Plants which have failed to thrive will be replaced by the contractor; however, the contractor will not be responsible for replacing those plants eaten by deer.

A subcontractor was hired to address the poor grass situation in the Park and especially at Phillips Park. Special machinery was brought in, the soil was “sliced” and aerated, and the areas have been reseeded. Thirty signs have been installed along the path asking people to stay on the path in order to give the grass a chance to get established; the signs seem to be somewhat effective. Shrubs have been strategically planted on the path near Forest Street to prevent “cut-throughs” and keep people on the path and off the newly seeded grass.

Bio-retention basins have been weeded. This is an item on the “punch list.”

Stream work is completed between Cottage and Dover streets. All concrete liners have been removed except for those needed to maintain certain trees.

Rocks have been installed under the Leighton Street bridge to add the desired sound of rushing water.

Project Schedule: Mike Pakstis reported that a time-extension request for project completion is being negotiated due to the additional drainage work on and around Cottage Street, which the Town had requested of the contractor. The completion date is further impacted by the need to close those roads, which is ideally done in the summer when schools are not in session.

319 Grant: The paperwork and final report are being compiled and will be submitted to the DEP in order for the town to receive the final retainer from the 319 grant.

Path Surface: The portion of the coarse path material between Brook Street and Cottage Street has been removed using a street sweeper to better match the path texture on the rest of the path.

Post-Construction Maintenance: Removal of invasives will require ongoing maintenance by the Wellesley Parks Division. To address this issue in advance, Town staff have been regularly walking the park with Peter Jackson to identify areas which will need attention. The post-construction maintenance plan calls for the Department of Public Works to add another staff person, and to purchase specialized equipment, both of which will be items in the proposed 2018 budget. The possibility of incorporating an annual “invasives maintenance contract” into the Natural Resources Commission budget was discussed. The opportunity to utilize citizen volunteers to assist in park maintenance will be explored once a maintenance plan is in place.

Old Business:

CPC Acknowledgement: The Fuller Brook Park Committee will reach out to the Community Preservation Committee to explore signage at both ends of the park that will acknowledge the use of Community Preservation Act funds for this project. Once a design is finalized it will be brought to the Design Review Board and Natural Resources Commission for approval.

Other Topics:

Wildlife Habitat: Many animals have been sighted in the park, including a fox, deer, and possible beaver activity.

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Fuller Brook Park Committee will take place at 8:00 a.m. on Friday November 18th in the Board Room of the Department of Public Works, 20 Municipal Way.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Raina C. McManus
Fuller Brook Park Committee Member
Wellesley Natural Resources Commission